29th July 1952]

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" That is not at all necessary at this stage."

SRI P. VENKATASUBBAYYA :—" May I know, Sir, the conditions to be fulfilled by one to be a licensed dealer in foodgrains? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We have not yet put the order into effect at all; so the question does not arise."

SRI M. HANUMANTHA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government of India order excludes growers of paddy from this licensing system? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Whether we are going to enforce this licensing system is still in the melting pot; the question therefore does not arise."

Foodgrains Order passed by the Central Government.

* 275 *Q.*—SRI R. KRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the Foodgrains Order, dated 10th July 1952, of the Central Government was passed with the knowledge of this Government?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No."

SRI R. KRISHNAN :—" In view of the fact that prices of foodgrains are shooting up as can be seen from the newspaper reports, will the Government consider implementing the order immediately and permit the P.C.C. Societies of Malabar to deal in foodgrains? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, shooting, I find, is only in this House. The suggestion is to re-introduce control. I do not think it is necessary at this stage to introduce any control."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Will the Government place before the House a statement on the general level of prices in all the districts and how much it is above the control prices? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes, Sir, I am prepared to give the information to the hon. Member."

SRI ALLURI VENKATARAMARAJU :—" తూర్పు గోదావరి జిల్లా రాజోలు తాలూకాలో ధాన్యానికి ధర 20 రూపాయలనుంచి 28 రూపాయల వరకు పెరిగిందని గవర్నమెంటువారికి తెలియపరచబడినది. అట్లు పెరగడంవల్ల ఆ తాలూకాలో వున్నటువంటి గవర్నమెంటు స్వాధీనములోవున్న 30 వేల బస్తాల ధాన్యాన్ని అంతా విడుదల చేసి ధర తగ్గేటట్లు చేస్తారా ?"

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" Sir, I shall translate the question. Are the Government aware that the people of Razole taluk, East Godavari district, have informed the Government that the price of foodgrains has risen from Rs. 20 to Rs. 28 per bag and will the Government immediately take steps to release the foodgrains in their possession and reduce the prices? "

[29th July 1952

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, this increase in price has taken place, I agree, in the surplus districts. It is due to this. Formerly there was no zonal system and there was no free market and whatever surplus grain was available, it had to be sold within the surplus district except a little smuggling to outside the district. We have now introduced what is known as Zonal system combining many districts. Therefore people from outside districts can go and purchase in the surplus districts and there is bound to be some increase in the price in the surplus districts and corresponding decrease in the deficit districts."

10-40 a.m. SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" The Hon. Finance Minister was just now saying that the prices have not shot up but that there was shooting only in this House. May I just draw his attention to the fact that it is not only in this House but outside this House also the complaint is made that prices have risen abnormally? May I bring to the notice of the Hon. Finance Minister that the Press have been publishing reports that prices of foodstuffs have shot up of late? Is it not necessary that the Government should come forward to stabilize the prices? Cannot this Government straightway supply grains to the people? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" This is a wrong observation, Sir, which has necessitated my interruption. What was referred to by the Hon. Finance Minister was the shooting in this House and not about the shooting up of prices of grains." (Laughter.)

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" The Hon. Finance Minister had admitted that there had been a rise in the price of foodstuffs in surplus areas. May I know what steps the Government are going to take to check the rise in prices? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We feel sure that prices would come down when the next crop season commences, Sir."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" May I know whether the shooting referred to by the Hon. Finance Minister refers to shooting with the aid of gun or with the aid of vocal power, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Of course without guns, Sir." (Laughter.)

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" In view of the issue of grains from town fair price shops being larger in quantity than the issue in country fair price shops, are the Government aware of the likelihood of prices rising in the mufassal? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We are supplying only 2 oz. of rice in the rural areas. But we are supplying unlimited quantities of wheat and milo. Recently we have reduced the price of milo. This will ease the position to a great extent and there is not much likelihood that the price

29th July 1952]

of rice will rise. I may tell the hon. Member that even during the control period, we were supplying 2 oz. in the rural areas. We are continuing the same even now."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" Is it not a fact that the present free market price of rice is much higher than the blackmarket price of rice while the previous Government was in office and control of rice was in force? Are the Government aware of reports in the Press in this connexion?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes, Sir, to a certain extent, the free market price of rice is a bit high but it is much lower than the blackmarket price during the period of control. But there is a tendency among the people to purchase rice in the free market rather than in the Fair Price Shops."

DR. T. S. SOUNDARAM RAMACHANDRAN :—" Considering the fixation of price of rice prior to decontrol at a scandalously low level, will the Government consider the desirability of raising it so that the present increase noticed in the free market may be rectified."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not think our fixation of price was so scandalously low. Now that we have decontrolled rice, we have absolutely no power for the fixation of price at any specified level."

Opening of a Medical College at Madanapalle.

* 276 Q.—SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether there is a proposal before the Government to open a Government Medical College at Madanapalle?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The answer is in the negative."

SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH :—" In view of the fact that the whole of the people of Rayalaseema have no medical college of their own and in view of the fact that their educational needs have not been taken proper care of by the previous Government, will the present Government at least come forward with a scheme for opening a medical college at Madanapalle."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" At Madanapalle, the hospital has a capacity of only 28 beds. For the starting of a medical college with 50 students we require a hospital with a bed strength of 500. Moreover we require highly qualified staff, i.e., persons with post-graduate qualifications and teaching experience. In view of the lack of these facilities, it is not possible to open a medical college at Madanapalle at the present moment."

SRI T. N. VENKATASUBBA REDDI :—" Was there any proposal before the Government to increase the bed strength of the